

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An electrowetting module comprising:
a cavity, containing at least a first body of a first fluid and a second body of a second fluid, the first and second fluid bodies being separated by a meniscus-shaped interface, said first fluid being electrically conducting and the second fluid being electrically non-conducting and including a compound having a higher molecular weight than said first fluid, said compound containing symmetric molecules and having a zero dipole moment, wherein a density of said second fluid including said compound of higher molecular weight is substantially similar to a density of said first fluid; and

means for exerting an electrical force on at least one of the two fluids to change at least one of the position and the shape of the interface.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (original) A module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compound is at least one of an organic compound, an organometallic compound, a germanium-based compound and a silicon-based compound, being symmetrically substituted.

4. (Previously presented) A module as claimed in claim 3, wherein the symmetric, organic compound contains 1 or 2 carbon atoms and is preferably selected from the group consisting of CS₂, CSe₂, CCl₄, CBr₄ and C(Cl)₂ = C(Cl)₂, C(Br)₂=C(Br)₂.

5. (original) A module as claimed in claim 3, wherein the symmetric organic compound is an aromatic compound, being fused

or not, and being substituted or not with at least two equal, electronegative residues.

6. (Previously presented) A module as claimed in claim 5, wherein said aromatic compound is substituted with residues, selected from a C1-C5 alkyl, or a halide residue.

7. (previously presented) A module as claimed in claim 5, wherein said aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, naphthalene, p-xylene, mesitylene, durene, mellitene, p-terphenyl, biphenyl, 1,4-dichlorobenzene and 1,4-dibromobenzene, 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene, 1,3,5-tribromobenzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrabromobenzene, hexachlorobenzene, hexabromobenzene, preferably p-xylene, mesitylene and 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene.

8. (Previously presented) A module as claimed in claim 3, wherein said organometallic compound is a stannic compound.

9. (Currently amended) A module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and said second fluids have different refractive indices, wherein the compound added to the liquid has a refractive index difference increasing effect.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A module as claimed in claim 9, wherein the difference in refractive index is from 0.05 to 0.3; the refractive index of said second fluid being larger than 1.4.

12. (cancelled)

13. (Currently amended) A module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second fluid having a density larger than 1.0 g/cm³.

14. (New) An electrowetting module comprising a cavity, containing at least a first body of a first fluid and a second body of a second fluid, the first and second bodies being separated by a meniscus, the first fluid being electrically conductive or polar, and electrical or magnetic means for exerting a force on the first body to change the meniscus, and at least one of the fluids comprises a liquid containing a compound containing molecules having a zero dipole moment in the liquid phase, wherein the liquid comprises a compound containing symmetric molecules.

15. (New) An electrowetting module comprising a cavity, containing at least a first body of a first fluid and a second body of a second fluid, the first and second bodies being separated by a meniscus, the first fluid being electrically conductive or polar, and electrical or magnetic means for exerting a force on the first body to change the meniscus, and at least one of the fluids comprises a liquid containing a compound containing molecules having a zero dipole moment in the liquid phase, wherein the compound is at least one of an organic compound, an organometallic compound, a germanium-based compound and a silicon-based compound, being symmetrically substituted.

16. (New) A module as claimed in claim 15, wherein the symmetric, organic compound contains 1 or 2 carbon atoms and is preferably selected from the group consisting of CS₂, CSe₂, CCl₄, CBr₄ and C(Cl)₂ = C(Cl)₂, C(Br)₂=C(Br)₂, more preferably CCl₄ and CBr₄.

17. (New) A module as claimed in claim 15, wherein the symmetric organic compound is an aromatic compound, being fused or not, and being substituted or not with at least two equal, electronegative residues.

18. (New) A module as claimed in claim 17, wherein said aromatic compound is substituted with residues, selected from a C1-C5 alkyl, or a halide residue, preferably methyl, chloride or bromide.

19. (New) A module as claimed in claims 17, wherein said aromatic compound is selected from the group consisting of benzene, naphthalene, p-xylene, mesitylene, durene, mellitene, p-terphenyl, biphenyl, 1,4-dichlorobenzene and 1,4-dibromobenzene, 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene, 1,3,5-tribromobenzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene, 1,2,4,5-tetrabromobenzene, hexachlorobenzene, hexabromobenzene, preferably p-xylene, mesitylene and 1,3,5-trichlorobenzene.

20. (New) A module as claimed in claim 15, wherein said organometallic compound is a stannic compound, preferably tetramethyl tin.

21. (New) An optical component comprising electrowetting module comprising a cavity, containing at least a first body of a first fluid and a second body of a second fluid, the first and second bodies being separated by a meniscus, the first fluid being electrically conductive or polar, and electrical or magnetic means for exerting a force on the first body to change the meniscus, and at least one of the fluids comprises a liquid containing a compound containing molecules having a zero dipole

moment in the liquid phase, the first and said second fluid bodies having different refractive indices, wherein the compound added to the liquid has a refractive index difference increasing effect.

22. (New) A module as claimed in claim 21, wherein the first fluid body is electrically conducting and/or polar, and the second fluid body is electrically non-conducting, the module being provided with means for exerting an electric force to change the position and/or shape of the meniscus-shaped interface.

23. (New) A module as claimed in claim 21, wherein the difference in refractive index is from 0.05 to 0.3, preferably from 0.1 to 0.2; the refractive index of said second, non-conducting body, which comprises a liquid comprising a compound containing symmetric molecules and having zero dipole moment in the liquid phase, being larger than 1.4, preferably larger than 1.45, more preferably larger than 1.50, most preferably larger than 1.55.

24. (New) A module as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first and said second fluid bodies show a similar density.

25. (New) A module as claimed in claim 24, wherein the second fluid body comprises a liquid, comprising a compound containing symmetric molecules and having zero dipole moment in the liquid phase, and a density larger than 1.0 g/cm³, preferably larger than 1.05 g/cm³, specifically larger than 1.50 g/cm³.